



HIGH IMPACT CAPITAL INVESTMENTS WILL CREATE NEW JOBS, STRENGTHEN WORKFORCE

*Legislature's Capital Program Targeted to Create Jobs,
Bolster Community College and Protect County Infrastructure*



HAUPPAUGE, NY, JUNE 3, 2010 – Suffolk County Legislature Presiding Officer William J. Lindsay (D-Holbrook) today joined with members of the Legislature to announce a bipartisan capital budget proposal that focuses spending on projects that create jobs, advance educational opportunities for young adults and protect county infrastructure. The Legislature will vote on the proposed capital budget at its Tuesday, June 8 general meeting at 9:30 a.m. in Hauppauge.

The Legislature's proposed actions are highlighted by three major investment projects at the Community College:

1. Restoring funding for a Gymnasium / Health & Fitness center on the Eastern Campus.
2. Advancing funding for a Learning Resource Center on the Grant Campus.
3. Funding for college-wide infrastructure rehabilitation and improvements.

“People want to send their kids to Community College because it’s the best deal in town,” said Lindsay. “With the state match on these projects, we double every dollar we spend. We’re putting people to work and we’re educating our children and making it more likely that they stay here. Sounds like a super bang for the buck to me.”

"By choosing to invest in the quality of our College’s facilities, the Legislature is supportive of the fact that education and training will be the driving force behind our region’s recovery,” said Shaun McKay, President of Suffolk County Community College. "This ultimately leads to jobs and a revitalization of the region’s economy."

"This three-year capital plan represents a \$15.6 million reduction over last year’s while at the same time making a significant investment in Suffolk County Community College at a time when the College’s student population is soaring and the scope of its offerings is expanding due to our County’s needs,” said County Legislator Thomas Cilmi. "So we have reduced spending and borrowing but we continue our commitment to post-secondary education in Suffolk. This is an investment in our youth, it’s an investment in our workforce and indeed, it’s an investment in the future of Suffolk County."

“The College plays a vital role to Suffolk County residents who may otherwise not have an opportunity in attaining a higher education,” said County Legislator Ricardo Montano. “It is imperative that we continue to provide funding that enhances the programs and services the College offers to the community.”

Legislative Priorities:

➤ Restoring, advancing and adding infrastructure investments for Suffolk County Community College

- ◆ The Legislature restores or advances funding in the capital program for two major construction projects that will create much needed construction and trade jobs in future years.
 - Learning Resource Center (Library) at the Grant Campus
 - Health and Fitness Center at the Eastern Campus
 - College-wide infrastructure rehabilitation and improvements
- ◆ Over the past 5 years SCCC’s enrollment has increased by 19.5% with 24,829 current students.
- ◆ SCCC offers quality higher education for Suffolk residents at a reasonable price.
- ◆ SCCC educates the workforce and in partnership with private industry develops programs specific for industry needs.

- ◆ These projects will be a boost to the economy as there will be an injection of \$20,575,000 coming from New York State into the local economy.

➤ **Sewer Capacity Expansion**

- ◆ Expanded sewer capacity is critical for economic development and protection of our environment because it has the potential to lure businesses while protecting our waterways.
- ◆ Only 28% of Suffolk's homes are hooked up to sewers. Septic systems, which homes need when sewers are not available, are major polluters.
- ◆ The capital programs adds \$900,000 for planning in 2011 for the County share to obtain 55% Federal matching funds for the required study to create a Shirley/Mastic sewer district to protect the Forge River

➤ **Pedestrian Safety**

- ◆ Adds \$1.3 million for construction in 2011 to continue upgrading sidewalk systems on County roads.
- ◆ Adds \$750,000 for construction in 2012 to build a new pedestrian bridge over CR4, Commack Road,

➤ **DECREASING the Capital Budget over current program passed last year**

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| <u>Last year's 3-year plan</u> | <u>This year's 3-year plan</u> |
| \$589,477,186 million | \$573,863,003 million |
| \$15,614,183 less | |
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| <u>Last year's 5-year plan</u> | <u>This year's 5-year plan</u> |
| \$927,859,739 million | \$811,538,689 million |
| \$116,321,050 less | |
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| <u>Last year's long-term plan (SY)</u> | <u>This year's long-term plan (SY)</u> |
| \$338,382,553 million | \$237,675,686 million |
| \$100,706,867 less | |
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Repairing Crumbling Infrastructure



Building Needed Facilities



Learning Resource Center on the Grant Campus

95k square foot facility that
will include library,
instructional and student
activity space

Gymnasium Health & Fitness Center on the Eastern Campus

49k square foot facility that will include Gym, pool, field
house, locker rooms, weight room, class rooms

